

IN THE CLAIMS:

*A listing of the claims presented in this patent application appears below. This listing replaces all prior versions and listing of claims in this patent application.*

1.(Previously Presented) An optical cable, comprising:  
a tension member;  
a tube comprised of one of plastic and metal , stranded together around said tension member, and containing one or more coated optical fibers inside; and  
an outer sheath covering an outer periphery of said tube,  
wherein a ratio of A/B is 6.3 or more but 7.0 or less, where said each coated optical fiber has a mode field diameter A of  $8.6 \pm 0.4 \mu\text{m}$  at a wavelength of  $1.31 \mu\text{m}$ , and a fiber cutoff wavelength of said each coated optical fiber is B  $\mu\text{m}$ .

2.(Currently amended) An optical cable according to claim 1,  
~~a tension member;~~  
~~a tube comprised of one of plastic and metal , stranded together around said tension member, and containing one or more coated optical fibers inside; and~~  
~~an outer sheath covering an outer periphery of said tube,~~  
wherein a bending loss of said each coated optical fiber in the diameter of 20 mm at a wavelength of  $1.55 \mu\text{m}$  is 3 dB/m or less.

3. (Previously Presented) An optical cable according to claim 1, wherein an extra length ratio of said each coated optical fiber to said tube is more than 0 % but 0.10 % or less.

4. (Previously Presented) An optical cable according to claim 1, wherein an extra length ratio of said each coated optical fibers to said tube is -0.03 % or more but less than 0 %.

5. (Previously Presented) An optical cable according to claim 1, wherein an occupied factor of said coated optical fibers within said tube is 20 % or more but 75 % or less.

6.-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) An optical transmission system comprising an optical cable according to claim 1 for an optical transmission line for transmitting optical signals.

25. (Previously Presented) A force-feeding method, comprising the steps of:  
preparing an optical cable according to claim 1; and  
force-feeding said prepared optical cable at a force-feeding rate of 20 m/min or more.

26. (Previously Presented) An optical cable according to claim 1, wherein each of said coated optical fibers comprises a core region made of pure silica glass, and a cladding region made of F-doped silica glass.

27. (Previously Presented) An optical cable according to claim 26, wherein a bending loss of said each coated optical fiber in the diameter of 20 mm at a wavelength of 1.55  $\mu\text{m}$  is 3 dB/m or less.

28. (Previously Presented) An optical cable according to claim 26, wherein said each coated optical fiber has a transmission loss of 0.31 dB/km or less at a wavelength of 1.31  $\mu\text{m}$ , a transmission loss of 0.29 dB/km or less at a wavelength of 1.38  $\mu\text{m}$ , and a transmission loss of 0.18 dB/km or less at a wavelength of 1.55  $\mu\text{m}$ .

29. (Previously Presented) An optical cable according to claim 26, wherein an increase of said each coated optical fiber is 0.05 dB/km or less at a wavelength of 1.38  $\mu\text{m}$  after said each coated optical fiber is placed over four days in an atmosphere of a hydrogen concentration of 1 % and then hydrogen molecules are removed.

30. (Previously Presented) An optical cable according to claim 26, wherein an increase of said each coated optical fiber is 2 dB/km or less at a wavelength of 1.55  $\mu\text{m}$  after said each coated optical fiber is irradiated for an hour by  $\gamma$  rays of an absorbed dose of 1000 Gy/hr.

31. (Previously Presented) An optical cable according to claim 26, wherein an extra length ratio of said each coated optical fiber to said tube is more than 0 % but 0.10 % or less.

32. (Previously Presented) An optical cable according to claim 26, wherein an extra length ratio of said each coated optical fibers to said tube is -0.03 % or more but less than 0 %.

33. (Previously Presented) An optical cable according to claim 26, wherein an occupied factor of said coated optical fibers within said tube is 20 % or more but 75 % or less.